

# Winter Newsletter

## President's Report

Thank you to John Watkinson for his leadership as President for the past two years. He led the restructuring of the Executive Committee and those of you who were present at the AGM will have witnessed that new members are already relishing their roles. Congratulations to Mark Lansdown who was elected President-Elect in Rome! Over the next year BAETS will be particularly focused on two hot topics:

- In anticipation of a second-phase of publishing individual consultant-level outcomes David Chadwick and I are due to meet HQIP before Christmas. We wish to continue to influence what data are shared and how they are presented.
- The Greenway report ([www.shapeoftraining.co.uk](http://www.shapeoftraining.co.uk)) has made several recommendations that will affect how we train future surgeons and I will represent the views of BAETS at ASGBI Council with regard to protecting specialty training for thyroid/endocrine.

*David Scott-Coombes*  
*President, BAETS*

## Secretary's Report

### 2013 Annual Scientific Conference

The 2013 BAETS Annual Scientific meeting in Rome was a joint venture with the Italian Endocrine Surgeons, hosted by the Department of Surgery, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.



*Industry Exhibition at the BAETS 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting, Rome*

From the feedback received it seemed to be a very popular and successful meeting. We had a record 107 abstracts submitted for the conference with a wide range of scientific and clinical topics covered. BAETS wishes to thank all those who submitted abstracts, recognizing the effort and time it takes to prepare these.

Winner of the BJS Prize for best presentation by a UK trainee was Joel Smith for his paper “Exome sequencing of familial non-RET medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) identifies a novel potential disease susceptibility gene”, work conducted at the University of Birmingham.

Winner of the best poster presentation was Richard Egan from Cardiff for his work entitled “Does elective parathyroidectomy for pHPT affect renal function? A prospective study.”



*The BJS lecture was by Professor Sitges-Serra from Barcelona who gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on “Prevention and management of iatrogenic hypoparathyroidism”.*

I would like to offer personal thanks and also extend the deep gratitude of the BAETS executive to Bhavnita Borkhatria and Kristina Gloufchev from the BAETS / ASGBI office for their tireless organizational assistance in preparing for the Rome conference. Their expertise and dedication allowed for the success of the meeting.







*BAETS had their Gala Dinner at the breathtaking Palazzo Colonna Museum, Rome*

### **2013 BAETS Annual General Meeting**

A number of important topics were covered at this AGM, held at the Rome conference. The minutes of the AGM will be available on the BAETS website.

### **New Constitution for BAETS**

Significant changes were proposed to the BAETS constitution but were only enacted after validation from the members present at the AGM.

The BAETS constitution will be available for downloading from the BAETS website.

### **Joining the BAETS**

Surgeons wishing to join BAETS will now be able to do so online. The online application form will take them through the requirements for membership. One of these requirements for Full Membership, as agreed by the members at the AGM, was acknowledgement by the surgeon that their endocrine surgery outcome data would be regularly uploaded to the BAETS national database and that these data would be available for public viewing as required by HQIP.

### **President, President Elect, Past President**

The AGM agreed to a proposal that the term of office of a President Elect be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. This reduction applies from the election of the President Elect in October 2016.

A new role of Past President was proposed to the AGM and accepted. Experience has shown that there are often tasks to be completed towards the end of a President tenure and this new should facilitate this as well as allowing a transfer of experience. This post lasts for 1 year and commences from the handover of the Presidential Medal at the BAETS gala dinner, this being the official mark of the end of a President's 2 year tenure. The first such post commenced October 2013 when Professor John Watkinson became the first Past President.

With this change the total number of Executive members does not alter from the current number.

### **Officers of the Association**

Members will be informed of impending vacancies on the BAETS Executive in the Spring Newsletter which will issue a call for nominations. A candidate needs to be an Ordinary Member of BAETS and be nominated and seconded by Ordinary members. All nominations should be received by the Secretary by 1st July 2014. In the event of multiple nominations candidates will be asked to issue a personal statement for circulation to the entire membership and electronic voting by members will choose the successful candidate. Election is by simple majority voting. Full details can be found in the constitution.

### **BAETS Annual Subscriptions**

A proposal to increase the annual subscription fee from £60 to £90 for ordinary members and from £30 to £60 for associate members was approved at the AGM. It is always unpopular to increase subscription fees for any organisation. In our case we noted that the fees had stayed stagnant for many years. However, greater demands are being placed upon us as an organisation both from within and from outwith. Two of many examples - HQIP have mandated we publish results from our National Database, resulting in the development of a whole new aspect of our website and modifications in the database incurring cost. In addition we are in the process of modernising our website and making it more responsive to the needs of our members. This too incurs extra costs. We hope that the membership will recognise the need for the increase in subscriptions.

### **Access to Data from the BAETS National Database**

The organisation is receiving increasing requests from members and non-members to access to the data contained within the BAETS national dataset. These requests are motivated by the commendable desire to audit/publish clinically relevant material from the dataset. We are aware that the data belong to the whole of the BAETS membership but also very mindful of the fact that members have submitted these data to us in confidence of safe stewardship. The executive have decided that there should be a full

exploration of the opportunities and threats to allowing research orientated access to the database and this exploration is underway. Members will of course be made fully aware the outcome.

Members wishing to discuss any aspect of BAETS membership or ask any questions relating to BAETS are encouraged to email me via the address below. I will do my best to help in any way I can.

*Ashu Gandhi*  
*Secretary, BAETS*  
[secretary@baets.org.uk](mailto:secretary@baets.org.uk)

## Audit

The profile of the BAETS national audit continues to increase, following on from the publication in July of our surgeon specific outcomes website. The issue of open publication of individual surgeons' results remains at the top of the political agenda, and meetings are scheduled shortly, to determine how this process will move forward. It is likely that national audits will be expected to update their output at least annually, and to provide data on an increasing range of outcomes. I believe that we are well placed to meet this challenge, though issues remain with respect to external validation of our data, and with inclusion of data from current non-members of the BAETS who perform thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal surgery. In the meantime, members are advised to try to keep their entries up to date, as far as possible.

We are also shortly to introduce a new version of the database, incorporating changes to allow multi-browser access, the introduction of certain mandatory fields, and the facility to recognize cases operated upon jointly by two or more members. In preparation for the migration of the historical data onto the new system, we are in the process of identifying and managing existing duplicate entries, and members should already have received from me a separate e-mail detailing the actions required. If you are an active member and have not received this notification, please contact me ASAP (at [david.chadwick1@nhs.net](mailto:david.chadwick1@nhs.net) ).

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for their steadfast support in helping develop our audit, particularly over the last year, with the introduction of open access to our results.

*David Chadwick*  
*Director of Audit*



## **Thyroid & Parathyroid Surgery Masterclass**

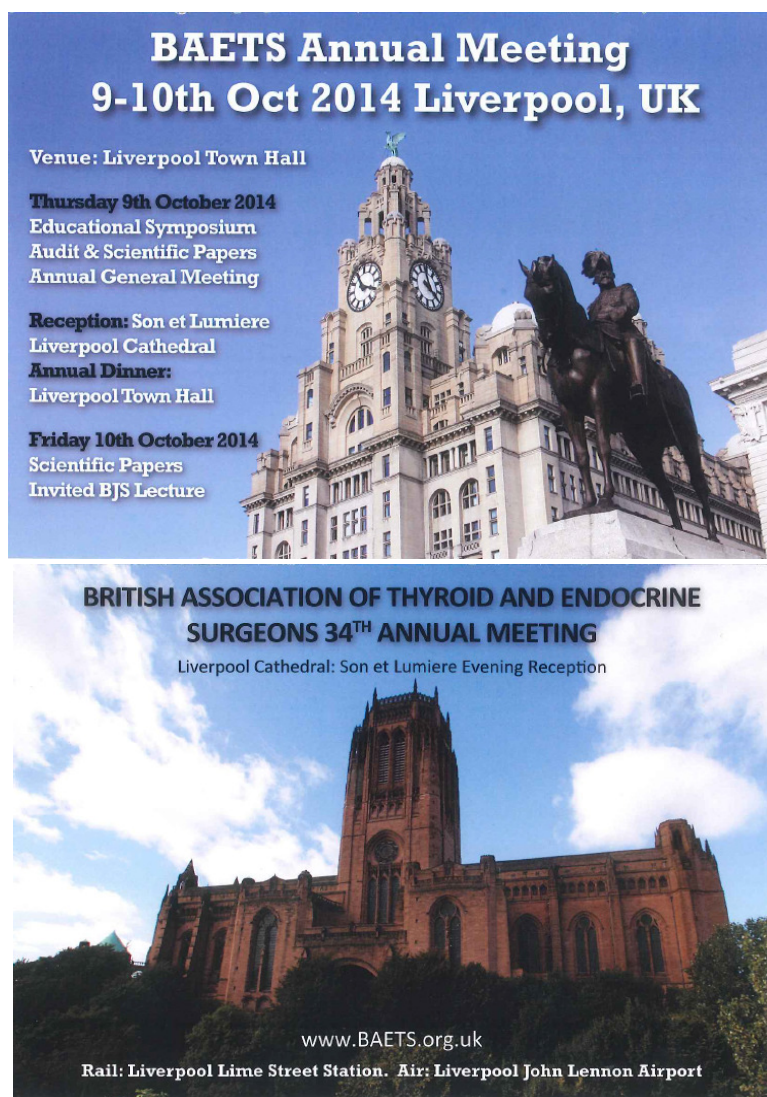
This will be an intensive one-day interactive workshop on surgery of the thyroid and parathyroid, this course aims to give you the opportunity to receive state-of-the-art teaching on controversial areas of thyroid and parathyroid surgery with group discussions, short lectures with discussion and an emphasis on interactive teaching style. The course is aimed at senior trainees and consultants specialising in thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

Further details on how to register can be found on the following link

<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/courses/course-search/thyroid-and-parathyroid-masterclass>

## **Future Annual BAETS Meetings**

The 2014 BAETS Annual Scientific meeting will be held in Liverpool on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Please consider marking the dates in your diaries. A lot of work is going into making the Liverpool meeting of great educational value and also great fun.



The 2015 annual meeting will be in Reading and for 2016 we are planning a joint meeting with our German colleagues and hope to hold the meeting in Berlin.

### **Forthcoming Meetings & Events**

Members are encouraged to keep an eye on the BAETS website for details of local, national and international meetings which may be of interest.

## **6th Biennial Scientific Meeting European Society of Endocrine Surgeons**



15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Cardiff, UK



**This is the largest gathering of endocrine surgeons in Europe.  
The meeting comprises a mixture of Key Note lectures from Internationally renowned  
Speakers and presentation of academic papers.**

**For all details and Registration please visit our website:**

**[www.ESES2014.com](http://www.ESES2014.com)**